

Travel assistance for students in Further Education (FE) 2009/10

If you live in East Sussex, we will use the information that you provide on the PS1 form to assess whether you are eligible for assistance with travel from East Sussex County Council for the academic year 2009/10.

Eligibility is assessed on:

- Being in receipt of a means tested benefit or Child Tax Credit below £16,040 (see 'Guidance notes' for more information on income details) and
- attending college full time (that is a minimum of 12 hours supervised study per week) and
- living three miles or more from the *nearest appropriate FE establishment.

*The nearest appropriate FE establishment is defined as the FE provision that offers an appropriate course based on your post FE intentions (questions 42–43). For instance, if you have chosen to do AS Levels at a college further than 3 miles from your home and there is a college within 3 miles of your home address that offers AS Level courses that would enable you to pursue your post FE intentions, then you may not be awarded travel assistance. If you have chosen to attend a college other than your nearest, please answer question 35 with your reasons so that we can make an informed decision on your eligibility.

If you do qualify for help with your travel, East Sussex County Council may be able to offer either:

- a free bus pass
- a free place on a hired school vehicle
- a grant towards your travel costs.

If you use **public bus services** you will normally be offered a **Freedom Ticket**. This gives you free travel during term time only on most public bus services in the county and on specific services that travel outside the county. By stating the number of the bus service that you intend to use, we will be able to decide whether the Freedom ticket is the best option for you. (See questions 36 & 37) Some students resident in East Sussex who attend colleges/sixth forms in Brighton & Hove may be given a grant equivalent to the cost of purchasing weekly bus tickets on Brighton & Hove buses.

If you attend a school with a sixth form and are eligible for travel, you may be offered a free place on a hired school vehicle. If you intend to use a specific school service, please state this on the application form (question 36). Once your application is assessed, a place on the vehicle (subject to availability as pupils of school age take priority) will be reserved for you and you will be notified by letter.

If the bus you use is not a school vehicle, does not accept the Freedom Ticket or you travel by train, you will be offered a travel grant. The amount of grant payable to you is based on the distance from your home to the nearest appropriate FE establishment (except for students attending certain colleges within Brighton & Hove –see above)

If you travel by train, you will also be able to purchase discounted Rail Season Tickets. You will need to have a 'Sussex Student Card'. A separate form is required for the 'Sussex Student Card' which can be sent to you upon request and forms will also be available from colleges. The form can also be downloaded from our web-site eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning Sussex Student Card holders can purchase season tickets for periods of at least one month online from www.southernrailway.com/further-ed/ and will be discounted by one third. Please note that the discount is not available on tickets bought from station ticket offices.

Please note that, where students opt to use their own vehicles to travel to and from college, they will only qualify for assistance with their transport costs if they can clearly demonstrate that there is inadequate provision of public transport.